

By the Queene.



Here in the Parliament holden at Westminster, the second day of April, in the xiii. yere of the reign of our soueraign Lady the Queene, there was for the reliefe of diuers poore decayed towns, & of great multitudes of her poore subiects, who otherwise were likely to perish, or to become unprofitable and dangerous to the common weale, among other provided & established, one good & beneficiall statute, entituled, An acte for the continuance of making of cappes. By meane of which statute, great numbers of idle, poore, and impotent persons were for a season set on worke, while the awe of the said statute, and feare of due execution thereof continued, to the marueilous great commoditie of this Realme, and helpe of the needie, and redresse of yll occupied persons, as by the experience thereof hath bene manifestly proued. And whereas neuertheles by litle and litle, the disobedience and wanton disorder of euil disposed and light persons, more regarding priuate fancie and banitie, then publike commoditie or respect of duetie, hath increased by want of execution of the sayd law, whereby those good and honest subiects that haue by meanes of the sayd statute, set to worke a great number of poore people, are like to be driuen to giue ouer their sayd trade of making capps, and to send abroad againe into idlenesse and misery, those multitudes that haue bene by them relieued: whereby is likely to grow great enormity and inconuenience, if speedy remedy therfore be not in time prouided. The Queenes most excellent Maiesty therfore tenderly considering the premisses, straitly chargeth and commaundeth all Iustices of Assises, Iustices of peace, Maiors, Shirifes, Bailiffes, and other head officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Townes corporate, and the Lords, Stewards, Bailiffes, and other officers of Leetes, Lawdayes, and liberties, and all and singuler Constables, Thirdboroughs, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other her highnesse subiects, to whom the executing or putting in bye of the same statute any way may appertayn, that euery one of them according to his office, place, and calling, doe their vttermoost endeouour for the due execution of the sayd statute: and that they the sayd Bayliffes, Constables, Thirdboroughs, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other inferior officers, and euery of them, doe euery Sunday, and festiuall day, make diligent biew and search in all Churches, Chappels, and al other places within the circuites and compalles of their offices and authorities, for all and singuler breakers and offenders of the saide statute, and without delay cause the names of al such offendours, and of the parents, gardians, gouernours, and masters of euery child, seruant, and warde, so offending, together with the day and place of the offence committed, to be then written, and to be lawfully and orderly presented, at such Assises, Sessions, or Courts (next after such offences) as haue authority to enquire or determine the said offences: And that all Maiors, Shirifes, and Bailiffes of Cities, Boroughs & Towns corporate, and all lords of Leetes, Lawdayes, and Liberties, doe immediatly vpon the proclamation hercof, call befoze them all the sayd Constables, Thirdboroughs, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, inferior Bailiffs, and all other the abouesaid inferior officers, that shal be vnder their charge of gouernment, and them and euery of them forthwith in our names doe straitly charge and command, that they, and euery of them, to the vttermoost of their powers, do euery Sondag and festiuall day, make such diligent biew and search, and such note also of the names of al such offenders, & such presentment of all such offences as is abouesaid: And that all Iustices of Assises, and Iustices of peace in their Circuits and Sessions, & al Stewards in their Leetes, vpon paine of her Maiesties high displeasure, omit not in any wise from time to time, specially to giue in charge, and cause to be inquired of all offences against the sayd statute committed or to be committed within their seuerall precincts or iurisdiccions, and also do duely heare and determine the same, punishing euery of the said offenders according to the said statute: And that al the said lords & owners of Leets and Lawdayes, doe as much as in euery of them shal lie, to cause their stewards througely to execute their office and authority, according to the same statute, and that vpon euery such offence founde, both the said owners of Leets, and also the rulers and cheife gouernours of euery Citie, Borough, Towne, or Hamlet, where any such offence shal be tried and found, shal doe their vttermoost indeuour by the Law to recouer, haue, and obtaine of euery such offender, all the penalties to them or any of them, by the sayd statute forfeited, or to be forfeited.

God saue the Queene.

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